

REMARKS

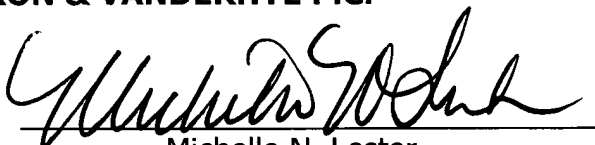
Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Communication dated December 16, 2003 indicated that the amendment filed October 9, 2003 was non-compliant because the status identifiers for claims 1 and 19 were incorrect. The replacement, corrected amendment to the claim section of applicant's amendment is presented above. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the remarks filed October 9, 2003 which discussed the amendments made October 9, 2003 and above together with applicant's traversal of the Examiner's rejections.

Early and favorable Action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Michelle N. Lester
Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:sj
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100